

It is my understanding that the FCC plans to consider a rule or rules that would affect the Indiana Telephone Privacy law. It is my hope that the FCC will not implement any proposal that would lessen the protections provided under that law. Presently I receive few telemarketing calls. I can spend an evening at home in relative peace knowing that any incoming call is from known family, friends or business associates. Before the Indiana law was put in place I typically had to answer seven to ten calls in an evening. One night a few years ago I got seventeen calls. I had considered an unlisted number but I would still have to provide that number to many institutions (banks, credit card companies, utilities etc.) in order to do business. Many of those institutions would in turn resell their telephone data to marketers and I would get calls via those sources.

One other aspect of the telemarketing debate troubles me. I pay for my telephone service. Any rule that allows unwanted telemarketers to use my telephone or FAX equipment is in effect forcing me to partially pay for the marketing program of that telemarketer. Any other advertizing medium I can think of does not place a cost on me. I have to pay for a newspaper or magazine and I can turn off or change the station on a radio or television. The phone has to be answered and screening calls (e.g. caller ID, an added expense) is not effective.